



National
Association
of Public
Hospitals
and Health
Systems

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August 24, 2012

The Honorable Thomas Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions
United States Senate
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
United States Senate
835 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy & Commerce
United States House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin and Upton and Ranking Members Enzi and Waxman:

On behalf of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems (NAPH) and its members that provide high volumes of care to all patients, regardless of their ability to pay, I am pleased to offer our support for legislation to reauthorize the *Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act*.

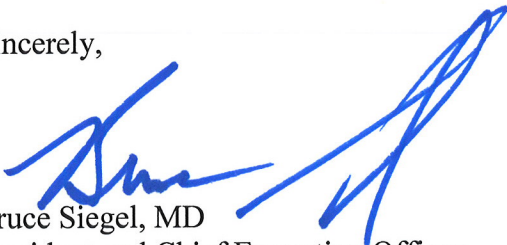
America's safety net hospitals have been at the forefront of responding to disasters, whether naturally occurring or manmade, and stand ready to provide care in future emergencies. Public and safety net hospitals provide disproportionately more emergency services (e.g., trauma and burn care) than their non-public counterparts. NAPH members are the only level I trauma care centers, or the only trauma centers of any level, in 31 communities across the country – including cities as large as New Orleans, Orlando, San Francisco and Seattle. NAPH members often serve a coordinating role during times of crisis due to their close connections with state government, local departments of health, and other public agencies involved with implementing surge capacity plans.

By reauthorizing critical programs and updating others, the PAHPA reauthorization legislation would strengthen our nation's medical and public health preparedness and response capabilities.

In particular, the Senate bill, S. 1855, recognizes the important role that trauma centers play in responding to disasters by expanding the National Health Security Strategy to explicitly state that the Strategy should seek to increase the preparedness, response capabilities and surge capacities of trauma centers, and ensure their availability and accessibility. As you work to reach consensus on a final bill, we ask that you retain this important provision of the Senate legislation.

We appreciate your efforts to reauthorize this important legislation and look forward to working with the Congress on future efforts to strengthen our nation's preparedness capabilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Siegel', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Bruce Siegel, MD
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Senator Richard Burr
Representative Mike Rogers